

Letters

Arena Association needs help to replace old seats

As you may have heard, or read in the local newspaper, the Richmond Hill Arena Association is presently conducting a fund raising drive to purchase and install new seating in Richmond Hill's major arena.

By way of background, we might explain that the Arena Association is a non-profit corporation which leases the arenas from the Town of Richmond Hill and is completely responsible for their operation and upkeep.

The Arena Association was established on April

12, 1954 and to this date has maintained its principal objective which is that "of providing as much skating for Richmond Hill as possible and still keep the operation self-supporting."

Twenty-five years ago the Arena Association's first item of business was the purchase and installation of an artificial ice surface in the Town's original arena which had operated since 1923 with natural ice.

Through public solicitation the Association succeeded in raising \$25,000 from approximately 5,000

residents in order to successfully install the Town's first artificial ice surface.

Since 1954 the Arena Association has not requested public support but has operated within the scope of its principal objective and has been self-supporting.

As well as operate the original arena built in 1923, the Association has completely refurbished that arena and has seen to the construction and operation of two additional arenas.

The Town's major arena was constructed in

1967, however, at that time funds were unavailable to install proper seating.

Fortunately, in the arena's second year of operation, the Association managed to purchase 2,000 old seats from Maple Leaf Gardens.

While these seats have served us well, they are now 48 years old and many are broken beyond repair. The cost of required repairs exceeds \$40,000.

Rather than spend \$40,000 on repairing seats that are 48 years old, the Association has decided that it would ask

residents, businesses and

service clubs in our Town to purchase seats for the Arena at \$50 each.

By requesting the residents, businesses and service clubs to purchase a seat for the Arena, the Association will not have to increase its present financial burden of about \$305,000 per year and it will be able to continue offering the residents of the Town the same fine service as it has for the past 25 years, and in our major arena, in a more attractive surrounding.

This fund raising venture cannot succeed without your support.

After 25 years, the Arena Association is again turning to the residents, businesses and service clubs of our Town and is requesting assistance and support.

We urge you to purchase a seat for the Arena and help us make our Town's major arena a place which all residents can be proud.

Remember, seats can be purchased for \$50 each. Cheques should be made payable to "Seat Fund — Richmond Hill Arena Association".

Thank you.

E. Barrow,
Chairman,
Arena Assn.
Richmond Hill



TO ALL CONSTITUENTS OF THE RIDING OF YORK CENTRE, I WISH AT THIS TIME TO EXTEND MY SINCEREST WISHES FOR A GOOD CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Alf Stong

ALF STONG
M.P.P., YORK CENTRE

Fire Chief's message

Christmas is meant to be a happy, festive time of year, but ironically, there is an increase in home fires and related deaths during this period.

We should all try to ensure our holiday is free from fire and allow for friends and loved ones to enjoy it to its fullest.

If you are buying a natural tree, select it carefully by testing it for freshness.

This can be done by bending the needles between your fingers to see if it springs back to its normal shape.

If it breaks or folds in half, select another.

When you arrive home with your tree, leave it outdoors or in an unheated garage until you are ready to erect and decorate it.

Then, two inches or so should be cut off the butt diagonally, and the tree set up with the butt in water.

The water level should be maintained to a point above the cut.

Set the tree away from heat sources, such as

fireplaces, TV sets or radiators. Do not allow your tree to block access to doors or windows. Tie the tree securely.

Check your strings of lights for worn insulation, broken plugs or loose sockets. Use only CSA approved lighting sets.

Switch off lights when going to bed or leaving the house.

Do not allow discarded gift wrappings to accumulate under or around the tree. Dispose of them as soon as the gifts are opened.

Declare the tree area A NO SMOKING AREA and provide large ashtrays for smokers away from the tree. Even a green tree will burn rapidly if ignited.

Should you have installed a wood-burning appliance or if you are contemplating doing so, ensure the manufacturer's instructions are followed carefully.

If there are any items you don't understand, check with the manufacturer of the Richmond Hill Fire

Department. Fire Prevention Bureau for assistance.

Review your home fire escape plans for quick exit in the event of an emergency.

R.G. Kennedy
Fire Chief
Richmond Hill
Fire Department.

Orchestra says thanks

The York Symphony Orchestra extends seasons greetings to all the residents of York Region and thanks all those who supported us in our endeavors.

Our goal of 400 subscribers has been surpassed and all our concerts have been well attended.

We have played for more than 1,500 people thus far this season.

The support of the media has facilitated the task of reaching the music lovers in the Region.

Thanks to all and Happy Holidays.

York Symphony



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